**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PER. \_\_\_\_**

**FETAL PIG DISSECTION LAB**

**Background:**

Mammals are vertebrates having **hair** on their body and **mammary glands** to nourish their young. The majority are **placental mammals** in which the developing young, or **fetus**, grows inside the female's **uterus** while attached to a membrane called the **placenta**. The placenta is the source of food and oxygen for the fetus, and it also serves to get rid of fetal wastes. The dissection of the fetal pig in the laboratory is important because pigs and humans have the same level of metabolism and have similar organs and systems. Also, fetal pigs are a byproduct of the pork food industry so they aren't raised for dissection purposes, and they are relatively inexpensive.

**Objectives:**

Identify important external structures of the fetal pig.  
Identify major structures associated with a fetal pig's digestive, respiratory, circulatory, and urogenital.  
Compare the functions of certain organs in a fetal mammal with those of an adult mammal.

**Materials:**

preserved fetal pig  
dissecting pan  
dissecting kit  
dissecting pins  
string  
plastic bag  
metric ruler paper towels

**PART A - EXTERNAL ANATOMY**

1. Obtain a fetal pig and rinse off the excess preservative by holding it under running water. Lay the pig on its side in the dissecting pan. Define the terms below and lable the diagram of the pig below. Then find these areas on your fetal pig.

Anterior: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Posterior: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Dorsal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Ventral: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Medial: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lateral: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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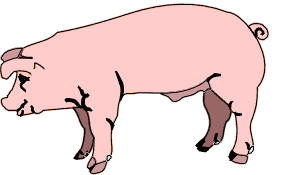
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Distal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**\*LABEL THE SIDES ON THE PIG PICTURE BELOW:**



2.  Gestation for the fetal pig is 112-115 days. A fetal pig has not been born yet, but its approximate age since conception can be estimated by measuring its length. Measure your pig's length from the tip of its snout to the base of its tail and record this below. Use the length/age chart below to determine the age of your fetal pig & record the age below.

**11mm - 21 days  
17 mm - 35 days  
2.8 cm - 49 days  
4 cm - 56 days  
22 cm - 100 days  
30 cm – birth**

**How long is your pig? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How old is your pig? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

3. Examine the pig's head. Locate the eyelids and the external ears or **pinnae**. Find the external nostrils (**nares**). Examine the exterior of the fetal pig for hair. **Label these parts on figure 1, external fetal pig diagram.**

**Does your pig have hair? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

4. Study the pig's appendages (legs) and examine the pig's toes. Count and record the number of toes and the number of hooves the pig has on one appendage. Label the toes and hooves on figure 1, external fetal pig diagram.

**How many toes are on our pig? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Do they have odd or even number of toes? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How many hooves does your pig have? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

5. With scissors, make a 3-cm incision in each corner of the pig's mouth. Your incision should extend posteriorly through the jaw. Spread the jaw open and examine the tongue.

6. Observe the **palate** on the roof of the mouth. The anterior part of the palate is the hard palate, while the posterior part is the soft palate.

**Can you feel your hard and soft palate with your tongue? \_\_\_\_\_\_.**

7. Locate the **epiglottis,** a cone-shaped structure at the back of the mouth. Above the epiglottis, find the round opening of the **nasopharynx**. This cavity carries air from the nostrils to the **trachea**, a large tube in the thoracic cavity which supplies air to the lungs.

**What is the function of the epiglottis?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

8. Dorsal to the **glottis**, find the opening to the esophagus. Examine the tongue and note tiny projections called **sensory papillae**.

**What is the common name for these structures \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

9. Examine the teeth of the pig. **Canine** teeth are longer for tearing food, while **incisor** are shorter and used for biting. Pigs are **omnivores,** eating plants and animals. Feel the edge of the mouth for teeth.

**Does the fetal pig have teeth? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Are humans born with teeth? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

10. Locate the **umbilical cord**. With scissors, cut across the cord about 1 cm from the body. Examine the 3 openings in the umbilical cord. The largest is the umbilical vein, which carries blood from the placenta to the fetus. The two smaller openings are the umbilical arteries which carry blood from the fetus to the placenta. **Label the umbilical cord on figure 1, external fetal pig diagram.**

11. Lift the pig's tail to find the anus. Anterior from the anus along the ventral surface of the pig study and note the tiny bumps called **mammary papillary**. These are present in both sexes. Count the number of mammary papillary. In the female these structures connect to the mammary glands. **Label both of these structures on figure 1, external fetal pig diagram.**

**How many mammary pappillary are there? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

12. Determine the sex of your pig by locating the urogenital opening through which liquid wastes and reproductive cells pass. In the male, the opening is on the ventral surface of the pig just posterior to the umbilical cord. In the female, the opening is ventral to the anus.

**What sex is your pig? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Anatomy of the Fetal Pig (INTERNAL)**

In this activity, you will open the abdominal and thoracic cavity of the fetal pig and identify structures. Remember, that to dissect means to "expose to view" - a careful dissection will make it easier for you to find the organs and structures. Be sure to follow all directions.

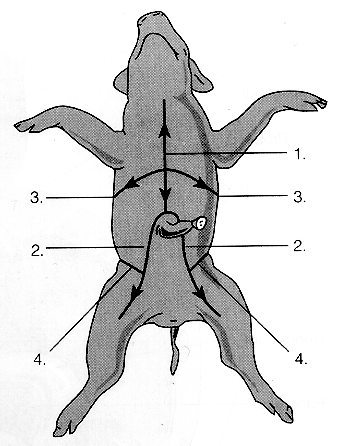
**PART B: THE INCISION**

1. Place your fetal pig in the dissecting pan ventral side up. Use string to "hog-tie" your pig so that the legs are spread eagle and not in your way. Use scissors to cut through the skin and muscles according to the diagram. Do not remove the umbilical cord. In the first section, you will only examine the abdominal cavity (the area below the ribcage).

2. Your pig may be filled with water and preservative, drain over the sink if necessary and rinse organs. Locate each of the organs below, check the box.

3. Study the diagram below. The lines numbered 1-4 show the first set of incisions that you will make. To find the exact location for the incision marked 3, press along the thorax with your fingers to find the lower edge of the ribs. This is where you will make incision 3.

4. With scalpel, make the incisions in order, beginning with 1. Be sure to cut in small strokes as “sawing” the pig will destroy any internal organs. Also, remember to cut away from yourself.



5. After you have made your incisions through the body wall, you will see the peritoneum, a thin layer of tissue that lines the body cavity. Cut through the **peritoneum** along the incision lines.

**What is the function of the peritoneum? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

6. After completing the cuts, locate the umbilical vein that leads from the umbilical cord to the liver. You will need to cut this vein in order to open up the abdominal cavity.

7. Spread the flaps of the body wall apart. Cut the umbilical vein, which extends through the liver.

8. Once the vein is cut, carefully pull the flap of skin, including the end of the umbilical cord between the hind legs. You are now able to see the organs of the abdominal cavity. You can use the dissecting pins to pin down these flaps to the dissecting pan.

**PART C: DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

1. Locate the **diaphragm**, a sheet of muscle that separates the abdominal cavity from the thoracic cavity. Find the most obvious structure in the abdominal cavity, the brownish-colored **liver**. Count the number of lobes.

**How many lobes does your pig’s liver have? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**What is the function of the liver in a living pig \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2. Between the lobes of the liver, find the small, greenish-brown **gall bladder**. Locate the hepatic duct, which carries bile from the liver to the gall bladder.

3. Find the tube-like **esophagus,** which joins the mouth and the stomach. Food moves down the esophagus by muscular contractions after being softened by saliva in the mouth. Follow the esophagus and locate the soft, sac-like **stomach** beneath the liver.

4. With scissors cut along the outer curve of the stomach. Open the stomach and note the texture of its inner walls. The stomach may not be empty because fetal pigs swallow amniotic fluid.

**Does your pig’s stomach have fluid in it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

5. Pigs are **ruminants**, animals with multiple stomachs. Locate the entrance to the stomach or esophageal area, the **cardiac region**, which is largest, and the **pyloric** **region** where the stomach narrows to join to the **small intestine**.

**What is the function of the small intestine? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

6. At the end of the stomach, there is a **sphincter**, or ring-shaped muscle to control food leaving the stomach and entering the **duodenum**. Locate the cardiac sphincter at the junction of the stomach and esophagus, and the pyloric sphincter at the junction of the stomach and small intestine.

**How do fetal pigs get their nourishment? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

7. Locate the thin, white **pancreas** beneath the stomach and duodenum. Pancreatic juice flows through pancreatic ducts to the duodenum.

8. Find the **spleen**, a long, reddish-brown organ wrapped around the stomach. The spleen filters out old red blood cells and produces new ones for the fetus.

9. Identify the first part of the small intestine, the U-shaped duodenum, which connects to the lower end of the stomach. Pancreatic juice, made by the **pancreas**, and bile, made by the liver and stored in the **gall bladder**, are add to food here to continue digestion.

10. With scissors, remove a 3-cm piece of the lower small intestine. Cut it open and rinse it out.

11.Observe the inner surface of the small intestine. Run your finger along it and note its texture. Using a hand lens, examine the **villi**, the tiny projections that line the small intestine and increase the surface area for absorption of nutrients. **Make a drawing of the piece of intestine below.**

12. Follow the small intestine until it reaches the wider, looped **large intestine**. Cut and unwind the large intestine or **colon**. Measure the colon and large intestine.

**What was the length of your large intestine? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

13. Notice that the large intestine leads into the **rectum**, a tube that runs posteriorly along the dorsal body wall. The rectum carries wastes to the opening called the **anus** where they are eliminated.

14. **Lable the diagram of the digestive system on Figure 2.**

**PART D: RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

1. Examine the **diaphragm**, a sheet of muscle that stretches across the abdominal cavity and separates it from the thoracic cavity where the lungs are located.

**What is the function on the diaphragm in a living pig? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Does the fetal pig use its diaphragm? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2. In order to see the upper part of the respiratory system, you will need to extend cut #1 up under the pig's throat and make two more lateral incisions in order to fold back the flaps of skin covering the throat.

3. In the thoracic cavity, carefully separate the pericardium or sac surrounding the heart and the diaphragm from the body wall.

4. Locate the two, spongy lungs that surround the heart.

**Are the lungs functional in the fetal pig? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

5. Find the **trachea**, a large air tube that lies anterior to the lungs. The trachea is easy to identify because of the **cartilaginous rings** that help keep it form collapsing as the animal inhales and exhales.

6. Notice that the trachea branches into each lung. These two tubes are called **bronchial tubes**. Inside the lungs these branch into smaller **bronchioles** that end with a grape-like cluster of air sacs or **alveoli** where oxygen and carbon dioxide are exchanged with capillaries.

**Draw a picture of the trachea leading to the two bronchial tubes and then the lungs below**.

7. Lying ventral to the trachea or windpipe locate the pinkish-brown, V-shaped structure called the **thyroid gland**. This gland secretes hormones that control metabolism.

8. At the top, anterior end of the trachea, find the hard, light-colored **larynx** or voice box. This organ contains the **vocal cords** that enable the animal to produce sound.

9. **Label the diagram of the respiratory system on Figure 3.**

**PART E: CIRCULATORY SYSTEM**

1. Locate the heart. It is covered by a thin tissue called the **pericardium**. Remove this membrane to study the heart.

2. Pigs, like all mammals, have four-chambered hearts. The right side of the heart pumps blood to the lungs, while the left side of the heart pumps blood to all other parts of the body. Locate the right and left sides of the heart.

**Would the left or right side of the pig heart have more cardiac muscle? Explain your answer.**

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3. Each side of the heart has an upper and a lower chamber. Upper chambers are called **atria** and receive blood, while lower chambers are called **ventricles** and pump blood out of the heart. Locate the right and left atria and ventricle.

4. Notice that the surface of the heart is covered with blood vessels. These are part of the **coronary circulation**, a set of arteries and veins whose only job is to nourish the heart tissue.

**What does a blockage in these vessels cause? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

5. Anterior to the heart, locate another large vein that enters the right atrium. This vein, the **anterior vena cava**, brings blood to the right atrium from the anterior part of the body.

6. Now lift the heart to view its dorsal surface. Observe the **posterior vena cava** that carries blood from the posterior part of the body and empties it into the right atrium.

7. Find the **pulmonary artery** which leaves the right ventricle. After birth, this vessel carries blood to the lungs. However, in a fetus, a shunt called the **ductus** **arteriosus** allows fetal blood to bypass the lungs and go directly to the aorta, the largest artery of the body.

**Why does a fetal pig not need its lungs? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

8. Locate the **pulmonary veins** that enter the left atrium. After birth, these vessels carry oxygenated blood from the lungs to the heart.

9. Identify the **aorta**, a large artery that transports blood from the left ventricle. Many arteries that carry blood throughout the body branch off of the aorta.

10. Remove the heart by severing the blood vessels attached to it.

11. Hold the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the heart with your thumb and forefinger and rest the ventricles on your dissecting tray. With a scalpel, cut the heart into dorsal and ventral halves.

12. Remove any material inside the heart and expose the walls of the atria and the ventricles.

13. Study the internal features of these chambers and note where vessels leave or enter each chamber. Locate the valves between each atrium and ventricle. These structures prevent blood from flowing backward in the heart.

14. **Label the parts of the heart on the Figure 4.**

**PART F: UROGENITAL SYSTEM**

1. Remove the digestive organs to study the excretory and reproductive organs that make up the **urogenital system**.

2. Locate the large, bean-shaped **kidneys** lying against the dorsal body wall. Kidneys filter wastes from blood. Draw a picture of the kidneys below:

3. Find the **ureters**, tubes which extend from the kidneys to the bag-like **urinary** **bladder**. The bladder stores urine. Urine is waste which is filter from the body through the kidneys.

4. Lift the bladder to find the **urethra**, the tube which carries urine out of the body. Follow the urethra to the urogenital opening on the outside of the pig's body.

5. Follow the directions below for locating the excretory and reproductive organs in either a male or female pig.

**Male System**

6. In the male pig, locate the two **scrotal sacs** at the posterior end of the pig. If the pig is in the later stages of development, you will find a **testis** in each sac. If the pig is in an early stage of development, the oval-shaped testes will be in the abdominal cavity. These testes have not yet descended into the scrotal sacs.

This also happens in human babies. The scrotal sac in boys does not drop out of the body until later in development.

7. Follow the urethra to the **penis**, a muscular tube lying just below the skin posterior to the umbilical cord. In mammals, the penis is the organ that transfers sperm.

8. **Label the diagram of the male urogenital system on the data sheet Figure 4, MALE.**

**Female System**

9. In the female pig, find the two bean-shaped **ovaries** at the posterior end of the abdominal cavity. Observe the coiled **Fallopian tube** attached to each ovary, which carries eggs from the ovary.

10. Follow the Fallopian tube to the **uterus**. The uterus is dorsal to the urinary bladder and the urethra.

11. Trace the uterus to a muscular tube called the **vagina**. The vagina will appear as a continuation of the uterus. This cavity opens to the outside at the urogenital opening.

12. **Label the diagram of the female urogenital system on the data sheet figure 5, FEMALE.**

**PART G – CLEAN UP**

1. Place your pig in the storage bag you have been using daily and then place that bag in the big garbage bag at the front of the classroom.

2. Clean all dissection tools with soap and water. This includes your dissection pan.

3. Return all tools/materials to the appropriate storage place.

4. Wipe up the lab station with soap and water.